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NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.*

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF DONATI'S COMET IN SEPTEMBER, 1858.

A letter from Professor G. P. BOND to Mr. R. C. CARRINGTON, dated April 4, 1859, states that a photograph of DONATI's comet was obtained at the Harvard College Observatory on September 28, 1858. The exposure was 6^m, and the plate showed the nucleus and a little nebulosity, fifteen seconds in diameter. (*Annals H. C. O.*, Vol. III, p. 210.) In his reply of May 26th, Mr. CARRINGTON sends another photograph of the comet to BOND, taken on September 27th by ??? with an exposure of seven seconds, using a camera lens (I infer that it was a portrait lens of some five inches in aperture), which shows much more nebulosity. CARRINGTON's enclosed photograph is not now to be found, I believe. The photograph was unknown to Dr. DE LA RUE, apparently (see *Monthly Notices*, R. A. S., Vol. XIX, p. 353). Both these photographs—the first ever made of comets—have remained unnoticed by all the historians of astronomical photography, up to this time, so far as I know.

E. S. H.

SEARCH FOR COMET, OR COMETS, REPORTED BY DR. SWIFT,
SEPTEMBER 20TH.

On September 21, 1896, a telegram from Dr. SWIFT was received here as follows: "Last night, at sunset, object as bright as *Venus* one degree east of Sun."

That afternoon, with a HERSCHEL prism applied to the twelve-inch telescope, I examined the region immediately about the Sun, and then with a low-power eye-piece, for several degrees on

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